

SENATE BILL 3396  
By Herron

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 58,  
Chapter 1, relative to military .

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1.

(a) The department of military shall establish a mission: welcome home program to ensure that a supportive community shall meet every member of a state national guard, who names Tennessee as home of record for military purposes, returning from federal active duty.

(b) The department shall employ any appropriate means to carry out mission: welcome home, including but not limited to:

(1) Providing every returning member of a state national guard, who names Tennessee as home of record for military purposes, with a mission: welcome home packet that states what will be done to help the member as such member rejoins the member's Tennessee life;

(2) Identifying a veteran who will serve as the contact for the returning member and the member's family with regard to mission: welcome home and other benefits and services; and

(3) Identifying national guard members, veterans, civilians, businesses, and community organizations willing to provide hands-on assistance to the returning member and the member's family with regard to establishing or reestablishing a career and reentering civilian life.

SECTION 2.

(a) The Tennessee department of military shall establish procedures to assist the spouses of military personnel to acquire and obtain professional and occupational licenses, certificates, registrations, permits, or other credentials. A person shall be eligible for assistance under this section if such person is the spouse of a member of the United States armed forces, including a member of a state's national guard or reserve on federal active duty who moves into Tennessee when the member of the United States armed forces is reassigned by the military. The department shall:

(1) Establish a process by which the department shall verify whether or not the military spouse has relocated because of the reassignment of such person's spouse by the military;

(2) Work directly with other states, testing providers, and organizations issuing credentials to accelerate the application process for obtaining state licenses, certifications, registrations, or permits. To fulfill this directive, the department shall seek input from and disseminate information to state agencies and credentialing boards on ways to accelerate the process by which eligible military spouses moving into Tennessee may obtain the credentials required for occupational and professional credentialing as expeditiously as possible; and

(3) Coordinate the activities of other state agencies and credentialing boards to establish a clearinghouse by which information on obtaining licenses, certificates, registration, and permits may be accessed. In coordinating the information, the department shall compile information from other state agencies and credentialing boards on the occupations and professions requiring a state permit, registration, certification, license, or other qualifying document and the name, telephone number, and address of a contact person for each such occupation or profession.

(b) Any state agency or credentialing board issuing permits, registrations, certificates, or licenses that are a prerequisite to a person engaging in an occupation or profession shall assist the Tennessee department of military in expediting the application process for such permits, registrations, certificates, or licenses for military spouses who come into Tennessee because their spouses are reassigned by the military.

(c) The department shall prepare and issue an annual report on its activities in meeting the directives of this section by June 1 of each year. A copy of the report shall be submitted to the house and senate state and local committees.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.